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OFFICE OF  
THE TREASURY ATTACHÉ

UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

SHANGHAI, CHINA

July 27, 1937.

Commissioner of Customs,  
(Investigative Unit),  
Treasury Department,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

There are enclosed for the information of the Bureau and other interested Departments copies of a report entitled: "Paul Yap and Fukien's Special Opium Suppression Commissioner Now 'n Hankow Awaiting Trial."

Respectfully,

*H. P. Walden*

Treasurer Attached

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Shanghai, July 26, 1937.

PAUL YAP AND WU TIEN'S SPECIAL OPIUM SUPPRESSION  
COMMISSIONER NOW IN HANKOW AWAITING TRIAL

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Paul Yap, the "Opium King of Fukien" and Cheng Wun-shan (程溫珊), former Special Commissioner for Opium Suppression in Fukien, were sent to Hankow with a number of minor offenders to be tried by the Opium Suppression Inspectorate-General on charges of having been engaged in illegal opium traffic and violating government opium suppression laws. As we said repeatedly in previous reports, Paul Yap was naturalized as a Japanese subject under the new name of Yeh Chen-sheng (葉振聲) last year, but according to a recent investigation, his naturalization was not made according to regular legal procedure. ~~The real story is as follows:~~

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At a town called Kaohsiung (高雄) in Formosa there was a merchant

by the name of Yeh Chen-sheng (葉振聲) with a small amount of property, who died the year before last. Last year the property of the deceased was bought over at a high price by Paul Yap who immediately assumed the former's name and pretended to be a Japanese subject. There was a movement to raise funds for national defence in Japan during October last when Paul Yap, now alias Yeh Chen-sheng, contributed a sum of \$10,000. But in Amoy Paul Yap still used his old Chinese name, Yeh Ching-ho (葉清和) in social life. ~~He did not participate in the Formosan Residents' Corporation. When he was arrested recently, his family applied for membership for him at the said Corporation.~~ Several requests for his release were made by the Japanese Consul, but the provincial authorities denied that he had been arrested. As Paul Yap is a noted drug trafficker involved with international drug cases, the Japanese have no reason to insist on his extradition even though he has assumed a false name. It is now generally known in Amoy that Paul Yap is not the Yeh Chen-sheng of Formosa, because not only are their appearances different, but their ages do not correspond, for the real Yeh

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Chen-sheng would be 46 years old if he still lived, while Paul Yan is only 42.

It is also learned that Mr. Hsu Hsin-seng (許杏生), Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ya Ming Opium Company, has also arrived at Hankow by plane to appear at the court during the trial, as he is also involved with the case.